

ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

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SUMMER 2019

PARTNERSHIP

BE THE *CHANGE*



IRUSA.ORG

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.

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Assalamu Alaikum. Peace Be Upon You.



For over 25 years, Islamic Relief USA has worked tirelessly with trusted partners around the world to ensure that the humanitarian relief and assistance we deliver brings about transformative and meaningful change to millions of lives.

As a leading faith-based relief and development organization, we remain committed to serving as a change-agent for the most vulnerable, marginalized, and disenfranchised. Together, we can safeguard the dignity and alleviate the unconscionable suffering of our fellow sisters and brothers in humanity.

During a recent field visit, I met with Syrian refugees in Turkey and Lebanon. One young mother's story stood out to me. Before fleeing Syria six years ago, her husband suddenly vanished one day. She was pregnant with her son and had a two year old daughter at the time. Her son never met his father.

This mother told me, "I have no hope for myself, but I'm doing everything I can to make sure there is hope for my children." She repeatedly emphasized the need for us to support the education of vulnerable children who have lost family and must now live in new countries while trying to lead a positive life. She urged us to continue facilitating this transformative change. Similar stories can be found all across the world.

In Africa, we help build and implement top-quality water well systems in villages to ensure continuous and safe access to clean water.

In Asia, we respond to the devastating effects of climate change and forced migration, such as Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines and the surge of Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh.

Across the Middle East, we provide critical, life-saving assistance and protection to refugees fleeing the dire humanitarian crises brought upon by conflicts in Syria and Yemen. We also provide life-changing and innovative

educational opportunities and orphan support to children in Tunisia and Lebanon. And we continue to partner for relief in Palestine.

Islamic Relief USA also shares winter aid across the world, including in European countries such as Bosnia and Kosovo. And we're making sure that refugees arriving in Greece are not forgotten.

Finally, here at home, our robust disaster response program provides immediate and long-term assistance to those suffering from devastating impacts of natural disasters, such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Harvey in Houston. More than two years later, our team of staff and volunteers are still helping to rebuild homes.

At Islamic Relief USA, we view every day as an opportunity to create meaningful change in the lives of those who face challenges that oftentimes seem insurmountable.

With your continued support, we are confident that we can make the world a more compassionate, just, and inclusive place to live for all of our sisters and brothers in humanity.

Your brother,

Sharif Aly
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief USA





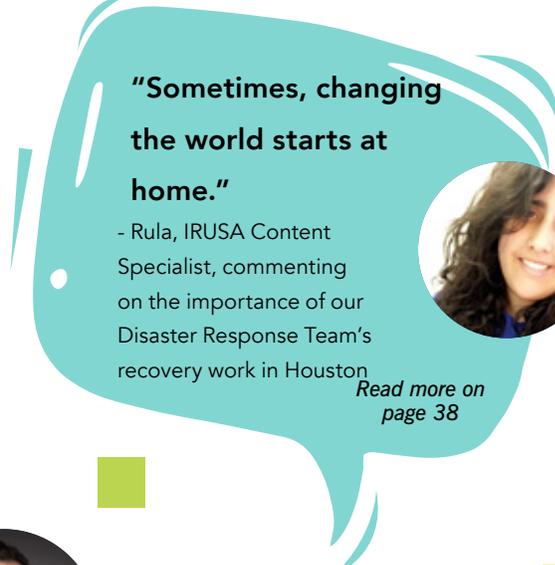
"I feel so proud that I am part of such a big family. Thank you to all the donors and team members who are working for me."

-Alina Afzal, orphan from Pakistan now in medical school
Read more on page 40



"Every day there were epiphanies and every evening we would reflect and share."

- Amani, a participant in IRUSA's Turkey Challenge, reflecting on her experience cycling in Turkey to raise money for water projects.
Read more on page 52



"Sometimes, changing the world starts at home."

- Rula, IRUSA Content Specialist, commenting on the importance of our Disaster Response Team's recovery work in Houston
Read more on page 38



"Now my daughters can continue their studies. I can provide food and clothing to my family which was at one time a dream to us."

Nurul, one of those served through IRUSA's innovative gardening project in Bangladesh
Read more on page 18

IRUSA

VOICES



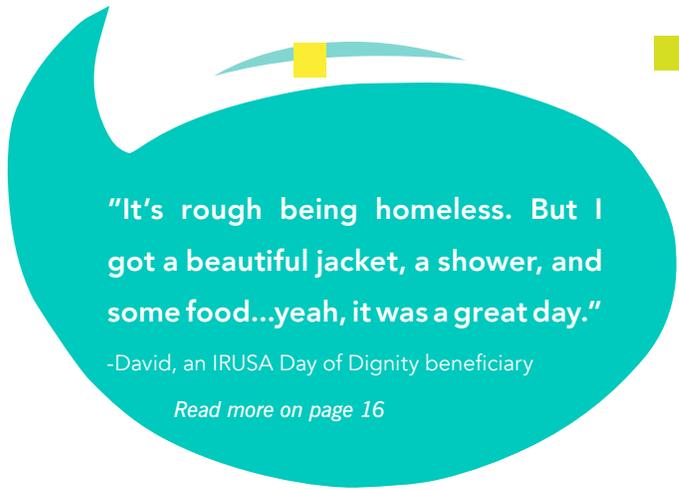
"While Muslims may face increased hostility and challenges in this uncertain climate, we must never forget or waver from our duty to provide relief to the most vulnerable individuals and communities, both at home and abroad."

- Sharif Aly, CEO for Islamic Relief USA
Read more on page 2



"There's still a glimmer of hope in the eyes of the people who have come here and gotten so much support from you and I."

- Imam Khalid Latif, speaking about refugees who fled Myanmar and now live in Bangladesh
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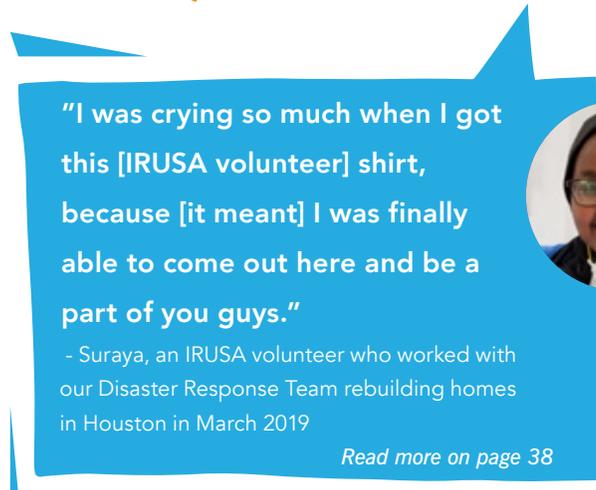
"It's rough being homeless. But I got a beautiful jacket, a shower, and some food...yeah, it was a great day."

-David, an IRUSA Day of Dignity beneficiary
Read more on page 16



"Water is very scarce over here...people are used to drinking water with high bacteria and iron content. We installed 150 pumps in the area with filters."

- Azhar Azeez, IRUSA VP of Community Affairs & Alliances, commenting on water programs in India
Read more about Asia on page 26



"I was crying so much when I got this [IRUSA volunteer] shirt, because [it meant] I was finally able to come out here and be a part of you guys."

- Suraya, an IRUSA volunteer who worked with our Disaster Response Team rebuilding homes in Houston in March 2019
Read more on page 38

WORLDWIDE IMPACT IN OVER 80 COUNTRIES SINCE 1993



ISLAMIC RELIEF AFFILIATE AND FIELD OFFICES IN THESE COUNTRIES SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS

Afghanistan	Chad	Ireland	Mali	Palestine	Sudan
Albania	Chechnya	Italy	Mauritius	Philippines	Sweden
Australia	China	Jordan	Myanmar	Singapore	Switzerland
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Kenya	Nepal	Somalia	Tunisia
Belgium	Germany	Kosovo	Netherlands	South Africa	Turkey
Bosnia & Herzegovina	India	Lebanon	Niger	South Sudan	United Kingdom
Canada	Indonesia	Malawi	Norway	Spain	United States
	Iraq	Malaysia	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Yemen

THE IR FAMILY HAS SUPPORTED HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN THESE COUNTRIES IN A LIMITED SCOPE

Algeria	Egypt	Liberia	Peru
Benin	Ghana	Libya	Sierra Leone
Burkina Faso	Greece	Madagascar	Swaziland
Central African Republic	Haiti	Mexico	Syria
Colombia	Iran	Morocco	Uganda
Djibouti	Japan	Mozambique	Zambia
Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan	New Zealand	Zimbabwe
	Lesotho	Nigeria	



Farmers in Tunisia are proudly growing a variety of crops in IRUSA-funded gardens.

What Change Means

At Islamic Relief USA, we never lose sight of why we do what we do: to serve people in need around the globe. We share this poem by Tariq Touré, IRUSA Content Specialist, so you can join us in reflecting on and remembering the lives of those changed for the better by your donations.

Change means a winter night without worry
It is a summer day no longer governed by famine
It is mothers in Niger, sifting their hands through crops
It is a warm blanket spread across the tiny toes
Of infants in the Jordan valley

Change means safely walking your favorite path to school
It is the dignity of a father ending his workday
It is a community celebrated for the light it kindles
It is years where war is washed away with
The sounds of crowding laughter

Change means poverty met with passion
It is our neighbors arriving when all hope seems lost
It is the smiles of survivors' renewed lives
It is water parading out of wells and into fields
Where drought was once king

Change means life is held in its highest honor
It is love that arrives at our darkest hours
It is the sheer power of one kind act
It is what's left after the disaster strikes
When home becomes our hearts

And if somehow it is forgotten
How heavy the weight of the world can be
Remember change means we choose
To carry our part 🙏

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT

MORE WAYS TO GIVE



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BLOG

RELIEFLAB

ABOUT #STORIES #SERVICE #EMPOWERMENT #SOCIALJUSTICE #COMMUNITY



Head over to Islamic Relief USA's official blog, Relief Lab, for insightful writing and articles that discuss contemporary humanitarian issues and provide first-hand insight into our worldwide projects. Visit relieflab.org

PODCAST



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When you select IRUSA as your charity of choice on Good Search and Good Shop, your humanitarian impact grows with every item you buy or search for. goodshop.com/nonprofit/islamic-relief-usa



Shop on Amazon using AmazonSmile for Islamic Relief USA, and 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases will be donated to our humanitarian work. smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4453134



Through your employer's matching gift program, you could multiply your or your spouse's donation or volunteer hours. Be sure to check with your employer today. irusa.org/matching-gifts



This subscription-based membership platform provides a creative way for donors like you to engage with and support IRUSA's content. patreon.com/irusa



Donating stocks is a great way to use your securities to help Islamic Relief provide vital aid around the world. irusa.org/stock-donations



Ready to get rid of your car, motorcycle, boat, or even jet ski? Donate your vehicle and the proceeds will support IRUSA's humanitarian work. islamicreliefusa.careasy.org/home



The IRUSA app makes it easy to donate directly, and can even round up your everyday purchases and donate the difference, if you choose. Search "Islamic Relief USA" in your app store to download.



Did you know you can donate to IRUSA with a text message? Simply text IRUSA to 50155 and follow the prompts. If you want to give more, just text again. All standard messaging rates apply.



This charity app gives friendly reminders to give to your charity of choice. Search "Feeling Blessed" in your app store to download. feelingblessed.org/irusa



LOOKING TO LEAVE A LONG-TERM LEGACY?

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Give toward this endowment fund, and help build the foundation upon which future charity work will grow.



Mothers in Niger have more time due to new IRUSA wells.



26 YEARS
IN THE MAKING
SINCE IRUSA'S
FOUNDING

**5 CORE
VALUES**
CHAMPIONED
BY IRUSA

142
IRUSA
EVENTS
IN 2018

75+ MILLION
LIVES CHANGED SINCE 1993
BY GENEROUS IRUSA DONORS

 **548,028**

MEALS PACKED BY NEARLY 2,500
IRUSA VOLUNTEERS AT MORE THAN
30 EVENTS IN 14 CITIES IN 2018



1,800 ORPHANS WORLDWIDE WHO HAVE LOST IRUSA
SPONSORSHIPS AS OF APRIL 2019 AND NEED NEW ONES

21,464 ORPHANS SPONSORED BY IRUSA IN 2018

25 COUNTRIES WITH IRUSA SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE



19 PROVINCES
OF 22 TOTAL
THAT IRUSA WORKS IN
WITHIN YEMEN

\$110,000
RAISED FOR YEMEN
IN ROUGHLY ONE DAY
BY IRUSA'S 2018
#GIVINGTUESDAY
CAMPAIGN

30+ DEPLOYMENTS
BY THE IRUSA DISASTER
RESPONSE TEAM SINCE
ITS 2011 FOUNDING



12 
HOUSES WORKED ON OR
REBUILT BY IRUSA AS OF
APRIL 2019, SINCE BEING
DESTROYED BY HURRICANE
HARVEY IN 2017

82,815
MYANMAR REFUGEES IN
COX'S BAZAR REFUGEE
CAMP HELPED BY IRUSA
LAST YEAR

19 
WELLS
(AND COUNTING!)
SPONSORED BY
IRUSA DONORS
ACROSS AFRICA

9 
OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY LEADERS
WHO RECEIVED IRUSA'S
2018 VALUE AWARDS

374,711
PEOPLE RECEIVED
WINTER AID FROM
IRUSA IN 2018

VOLUNTEERS

POWERED BY PASSION

2017-2018

 **40,000+**
HOURS

 **5,000+**
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

 **10,000+**
NEW APPLICATIONS



Muhammad Ali said, “service for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.” It’s that spirit of service that’s at the very heart of Islamic Relief USA, and it comes from our volunteers.

For over 25 years, Islamic Relief USA volunteers have demonstrated selfless compassion and practical work ethic. Their efforts improve the lives of so many people in need—and this past year was no different.

In 2018, Islamic Relief volunteers showed up big for projects like our 500K Meal Pack, Day of Dignity, and Disaster Response Team hurricane recovery projects.

But that’s not all. IRUSA volunteers prepared and served hot meals, like the 5,000 they shared with the DC Central Kitchen in the nation’s capital. Volunteers also served at shelters for the homeless.

It has been a pleasure for the family at IRUSA to witness the countless leaders that have emerged out of volunteering with IRUSA. We are proud and humbled to partner with thousands of youth, young adults, and elders who make space in their days to serve our neighbors.

Volunteerism is not just one part of IRUSA’s success; it’s the engine that drives the entire organization.

In 1993, our founders witnessed genocide overtake Bosnia. They knew something had to be done, and the US community proved to be magnificent in answering the call. It only took a few months for volunteers to hit the ground and begin raising awareness and resources for the hundreds of thousands suffering under the threat of death.

What began was a legacy of service and a concept of hope that has thrived since then. 🙏





Volunteers at a meal pack event.



IRUSA PACKS OVER 500,000 MEALS TO FIGHT WORLD HUNGER

Despite modern development, 1 in every 9 people in the world is still living in extreme hunger. That equates to 815 million people.

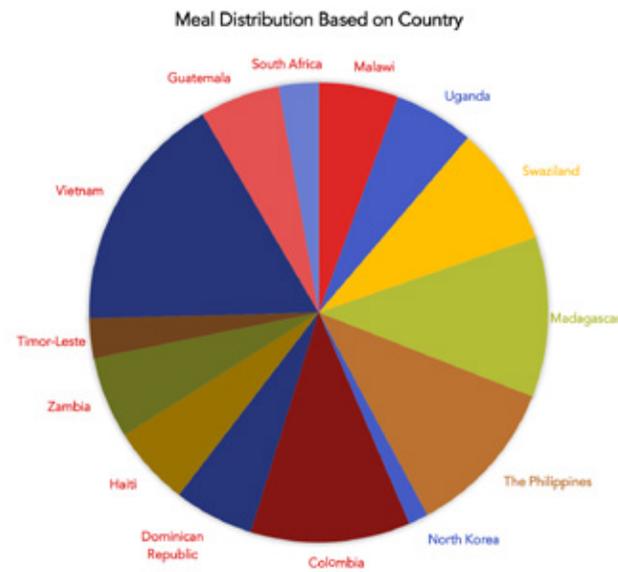
In 2018, Islamic Relief USA partnered with Rise Against Hunger to package over half a million meals. IRUSA volunteers dedicated hours of their time to improve lives, at over 30 events in 14 cities. The cities included Ashburn, Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, Hayward, Houston, Kansas City, Kearney, Orlando, Philadelphia, Raleigh, Richmond, and Santa Ana.

The meal packing campaign wrapped up in early December. The meals were distributed to impoverished regions in various countries, with a special focus on malnourished children.

The unfortunate reality is that many school-aged children leave school to help their families put food on the table. This initiative feeds these children and allows them to continue their education.

In 2015, the United Nations released 17 sustainable development goals. The second goal was a world free of hunger by 2030. Islamic Relief USA will continue doing its part, with the help of our loyal donors and volunteers, to work toward making this vision a reality.

You can join the 2019 MealPack. Visit irusa.org/mealpack.



Graphic provided by Rise Against Hunger

NATIONWIDE DAYS OF DIGNITY: CHANGING ONE LIFE AT A TIME

Islamic Relief USA's renowned Day of Dignity day-long events connect caring individuals in local communities who want to serve their neighbors in need. They change America for the better, one person at a time.

In fall 2018, good samaritans across the country held Day of Dignity events in Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Seattle. These events remain one of our strongest interfaith initiatives, and are a call to service for our neighbors in need—people from all backgrounds who are coping with life's most difficult situations.

In the United States, an estimated 40 million people live in poverty. Our Day of Dignity events aim to tackle that problem by providing vulnerable families and individuals with items like food, water, and clothing, along with services like free medical care and haircuts.

One of our most memorable 2018 Day of Dignity events took place in Denver, CO. IRUSA partnered with Muslim Family Services to transform a downtown park for the entire day to provide more than 500 homeless and working poor individuals with access to free food, medical screenings, clothing, and other necessities.



Volunteers distributing hot meals at Day of Dignity in Baltimore, MD.

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THROUGH ACTS OF SERVICE

In 1994, Congress declared Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a national day of service. Every year since then, on the third Monday in January, good samaritans across America come together for a cause that unifies us all: service.

On January 21, 2019, Islamic Relief USA staff and volunteers journeyed to locations across California, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC, to serve.

In cities like Dallas, Newark, and San Bernardino, IRUSA volunteers prepared hundreds of hot meals and care packages that included items like socks and toothbrushes. In Baltimore and the DC area, IRUSA held food drives and assembled household kits.

This collective volunteer effort benefited thousands of vulnerable Americans, including the elderly, refugee families, and those suffering from homelessness.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." IRUSA's mission has always been along the same lines: to provide relief and development in a dignified manner, regardless of gender, race, or religion.

MLK Jr. Day is a humbling reminder to know that our mission is aligned with the sentiments of one of the country's most inspiring leaders.



Volunteers packing hygiene items for MLK Day.



Volunteers packing produce in Arlington, VA.

CLIMATE CHANGE



In early 2019, Chicago, IL, experienced a polar vortex, with temperatures plummeting to -15 °F. Residents were given one simple instruction: don't risk your life outside.

In New Delhi, India, the 2018 summer brought heat that pushed communities to the brink of exhaustion, with temperatures surpassing 110 °F on multiple days. A New York Times article entitled "In India, Summer Heat May Soon Be Literally Unbearable" chronicled the phenomenon and showcased photos of residents barely coping with the heat. "If global greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current pace," the article reports, "heat and humidity levels could become unbearable, especially for the poor."

Addressing climate change is part and parcel of IRUSA's long-term vision. At the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change affirmed that "all countries are affected by global warming. But the impacts tend to fall disproportionately on the poor and vulnerable, as well as those least responsible for the problem."



Rabbani lost his crops and livestock due to drought in Afghanistan.



Women gathering water from a solar-powered deep water well project in Niger.



A thriving rooftop garden project in Bangladesh.

Causes and Devastating Effects

The collective production of carbon dioxide by humans, as well as deforestation, are the strongest causes of global warming. Both are linked to waste and consumer habits in industrialized nations. Industry leaders are desperately searching for best practices to change these trends, which have already become far too dangerous.

Rural communities that have been long-considered underdeveloped are paying steep prices for the habits of more industrialized nations. In Afghanistan, a seven-month drought beginning in April 2018 displaced hundreds of thousands of people, destroying livestock and crops. A freezing winter then added insult to injury. IRUSA responded with emergency humanitarian aid, along with numerous other organizations who have shared millions of dollars in aid.

Long-term Answers

There's no easy answer to climate change, but inaction is not an option. Islamic Relief USA is acting around the globe to help those most adversely affected through programs and advocacy.

From Chad to Malawi to Niger, "green" solar-powered deep water wells are harnessing the power of the sun in a positive way—to bring barren land to life. Long-term solutions like these are different from emergency relief: they establish drought-resilient infrastructure so communities are no longer devastated by the next dry period.

In Bangladesh, IRUSA rooftop gardens are another inspiring example of what is possible through sustainability projects. Not only do they provide a source of healthy, fresh food, but the introduction of the gardens into the surrounding urban environment has been proven to lower sweltering temperatures. So successful are these results that the Bangladeshi government has modeled their own initiatives off of this project.

Through these and many other innovative and evidence-based IRUSA projects and advocacy efforts, donors like you are responding to global warming for higher quality life. 🌱

A woman carrying home buckets of water in Niger.



RESILIENT,

CAPABLE,

DETERMINED.

The people who call the region of Africa “home” embody these characteristics, even in the most trying of times.

How different would your life be if you were a woman or young girl who had to walk six miles to find the nearest water well, trekking through perilous roads and dangerous areas to do so?

Through the generous donations and consistent support of donors like you, Islamic Relief USA can extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in need in countries like Mali, Niger, and Somalia.

IRUSA constructed a clean water well for Hapsita's village, one of the many aid projects in Africa that has provided relief to families like hers. Hapsita's children are now able to go to school, her family's health has improved, and their medical expenses have been greatly reduced. This is one of the many ways clean water provides lasting relief.

What fear would you feel if you were a parent who had to leave behind the only home your family has known as a result of conflict, your livelihood now destroyed, suddenly unable to provide food for your children? For many people, this example of extreme hunger is not a distant human tragedy but is instead a devastating reality.

In Chad, IRUSA was able to provide clean, high-quality water wells to villages suffering from lack of water. Hapsita, a mother of five, had to walk more than two hours each day to collect water—water that was oftentimes polluted. Her family suffered from exposure to diseases, and she and her children often fell sick.

With your help, we can make 2019 the most prosperous year for vulnerable communities in Africa who are able to thrive off the resources your donations supply. 🙏

AFRICA

PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

2017-2018

3.2+
MILLION
BENEFICIARIES

20
COUNTRIES

110
PROJECTS



A mother and her child at a food distribution in Mali.



A woman displaced by drought in Somalia.

Thousands of people in Malawi are displaced and homeless after Cyclone Idai.



Mobilizing for Survivors of Cyclone Idai

In late March, Cyclone Idai ripped through Southeast Africa, causing massive destruction in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The disaster has displaced at least 600,000 people, and is one of the worst disasters on record to hit the Southern Hemisphere.

The global World Food Program has deemed the crisis a level three emergency on par with crises in South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

As of April 2019, more than 1.5 million children are in urgent need of assistance in all three countries, with a total of nearly 3 million people affected by the cyclone.

In Mozambique, people sought refuge on the tops of their roofs and trees as rising floodwaters swept through the area. Nearly 1 million of the people impacted are from Malawi, where many families have been left without basic supplies like food, water, and sanitation facilities. Crops and livestock have been destroyed in Zimbabwe, where around 300 people have died.

The IR global family is working to provide emergency relief to all three countries. As of May 2019, we are working with partners on the ground to allocate relief funds. Alongside the continued support of our donors, we aim to respond with emergency essentials and assist with early recovery. 🙏



Survivors of Cyclone Idai stand amid the rubble of ruined infrastructure. The recovery period is expected to last for years.

Peanuts and Promises

We drove for hours through bumpy dirt roads to reach this community in rural Niger. There, I met an amazing group of women farmers who have been able to take control of their livelihood with the help of IRUSA. The women were peanut farmers and had been selling their crops for some time when a very simple innovation from Islamic Relief allowed them to take their business to the next level.

Islamic Relief provided a tool that allows them to easily shell the peanuts and extract their oil. This opened up the possibility of new products they could sell: peanut oil, peanut butter, and cake. Before, they would sell the peanuts to other businesses who would make these products. Now, they make them on their own and have multiplied their returns.

It was amazing to see that the whole community was involved in the process. I visited the crops themselves and saw women tilling the land and carrying the yields. Later, they all gathered under a large tree and different groups minded different tasks: shelling the peanuts, roasting them in an open fire, grinding them to separate the oil, and frying the butter to make delicious cake. Women and children of all ages sat around and helped, laughing and joking as they worked. They did everything with perfection and took pride in their product. I spoke to many of them, and learned that they use the profits for education and healthcare, and also set aside money to save in case any of the women face hardship.

It was beautiful to see how they all looked out for each other and worked together to achieve a goal for their community. I asked one woman what she would like people to know about her community, and she said, "The women here are brave."

A firsthand account of livelihood projects in action by IRUSA staff member Chancey Gannett, who visited Niger in October 2018. 🙏



A woman separating peanuts from their skins.



This tool makes it easier to shell peanuts and extract their oil.

Combating Modern Day Slavery



Coulibaly is an elderly farmer and survivor of modern-day slavery in Mali. He shared his experience with Islamic Relief about fleeing those who wanted him as a captive.

"I am a farmer. We came here during hardship, provoked by conflict. We told our fellow villagers of Sakora that slavery has long been abolished. We wanted them to stop calling us slaves and live peacefully together. We just wanted to be equal... We told them we would no longer work as slaves. They said slavery will not stop if that is what we are thinking. They said if we won't accept slavery we had to leave.

We refused to remain slaves. They destroyed our gardens, our homes, our motorbikes. They didn't stop there. They gathered a general assembly of five villages in Sakora. There were at least 1,000 people gathered by the village chief. These

men invaded our homes. They then beat us up, tore off our clothes, and brought us to the general assembly to force us to accept slavery...They wounded our children, pregnant women, and men! We could not fight back so we came to Mambiri. The people of Mambiri have welcomed us and given us shelter. We left our homes there. If you flee from your home it's because of suffering. We never knew it would come to this. If it's Allah's will, so be it. We will settle here. To go back to our home is out of the question. There are more than 600 people here—adults and children. We intend to spend the rest of our days here in Mambiri."

The Islamic Relief global family is currently providing aid in the form of food, hygiene kits, and assistance training to Coulibaly and the nearly 600 other survivors who are now displaced. 🙏

ASIA

RESILIENTLY SEEKING RECOVERY

2017-2018



1.5+
MILLION
BENEFICIARIES



10
COUNTRIES



91
PROJECTS

Those living in vulnerable conditions in Asia have demonstrated exceptional resilience, but human beings can only cope with so much.

In the face of natural disasters and political conflicts, millions in Asia are in dire need of humanitarian aid.

One-third of the population in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India live below the poverty line. India, Indonesia, and Myanmar also have active emergency zones.

Islamic Relief USA has been at the forefront of Asian humanitarian aid since its founding in 1993. What started as emergency relief efforts in response to natural disasters in places like India in 1994, has now grown to include projects ranging from girls' education to sustainable infrastructure development.

Over more than two decades, IRUSA's focus in the region has extended to include development initiatives, girls' education, Islamic microfinance, orphan sponsorship, poverty alleviation, water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, and women's literacy.

IRUSA is implementing programs in Asia that will provide long-term sustainability. In countries like Pakistan and the Philippines, for example, projects are put in place that work towards alleviating poverty.

By placing focus on education, vocational training, infrastructure development, and Islamic microfinance, those we support are equipped with improved long-term livelihoods.

Your support of Asia means the world to displaced families from Myanmar who are walking barefoot across borders and rivers in search of refuge, and orphans in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka who would otherwise have no support.

Your donations also provide home-based education to women and girls in Afghanistan who were previously unable to go to school. With the compassion of generous donors, IRUSA can continue spreading necessary, positive, and developmental change throughout Asia. 🙏



Earthquake Aftermath in Indonesia



Rehmi sits on the bricks of what used to be her home in Palu, Indonesia.

I traveled to Indonesia to aid emergency relief efforts after the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck on September 28, 2018.

As we arrived to the streets of Donggala, sheer destruction was evident. At first, it was just a few items on the shore. But the deeper we drove, the worse it became. Flattened houses, shipping crates tossed around like toys, and fallen trees were everywhere.

The earthquake had hit the island of Sulawesi, affecting the areas of Donggala, Palu, and Sigi. Minutes later, a 20-foot-tall tsunami hit Palu's coast.

The earthquake caused liquification: when water and soil mix to form quicksand. The ground shook violently, opening and swallowing homes, offices, and, unfortunately, many people.

Many families, even those whose homes weren't destroyed, slept outside for days from fear of aftershocks. And food shortages made a horrible situation even worse.

Our team experienced aftershocks daily. A rented house became our makeshift office in Palu. Lights went out regularly from electricity shortages, and we relied on a generator. Yet the team kept working around the clock to aid families who lost everything.

I woke early one morning to find the local team already on the phone, printing, and planning distributions. Volunteers gathered information via a phone app to distribute essential items to families most in need.

Survivors had nothing but the smiles on their faces as they began to rebuild their lives. The aid we gave focused on their immediate survival: rice, water, blankets, and tarps. Families left the distribution saying, "Alhamdulillah." Though devastation surrounded them, they were still thankful for what they had.

A firsthand account of emergency relief by IRUSA staff member Fareeha Amir, who travelled to Indonesia in fall 2018. 🇺🇸



Omar spends time with Afghan children who receive IRUSA relief.

Inside Afghanistan

In November of 2018, I visited Afghanistan on behalf of Islamic Relief to document the needs of displaced families living in camps, and Islamic Relief's work to help them. Although I was born and raised in America, my family is from Afghanistan so this trip meant a lot to me.

A few months before the trip, Afghanistan's western region was hit by a severe drought. An estimated 253,600 people were displaced.

This drought was an effect of global warming; it didn't snow the previous winter. If it doesn't snow on the mountains and hills, then there is no water for people to live on in the spring. The rivers run dry, farm lands become barren, and nearly every source of livelihood ceases. Most of the displaced were farmers and shepherds. This drought forced them to leave their homes to live in makeshift tents out in the open desert near larger cities, hoping for some assistance.

The situation in these tent cities was devastating. The people we met and interviewed had unbelievable stories. Men and women in their seventies who had known hardship all their lives, were now living in tents in the brutal winds of winter. Everyone I met had some kind of illness. But there were no doctors for miles. Even if there had been, there was no money for medicine.

Despite the bitter winter cold, the main things I kept hearing people ask for were food and water—basic necessities. Most of them hadn't eaten in days.

I also visited other Islamic Relief projects while there. One district in Bamyan, for instance, had the country's highest literacy rate among women, all due to IR literacy classes. I saw training centers providing women with important job skills so they could become financially independent. I met several of the 3,000+ Afghan orphans we sponsor. Two of them, Marwa and Masuma, were sisters whose father had passed away suddenly due to illness. Without an IR donor's sponsorship, their family's income would amount to zero.

Despite all the hardship, I saw immense hope in the people I met. I witnessed the tremendous impact that Islamic Relief's programs have on these "forgotten" people. All they need is a little bit of love, and they take that so far.

A firsthand account of emergency relief by IRUSA staff member Omar Nassimi, who visited Afghanistan in winter 2018. 🇺🇸

Myanmar: Looking Forward

Conflict in Myanmar has continued in waves since 2012. It escalated in 2017 when a campaign of violence sent 720,000 people from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

In summer 2018, flooding and heavy rains in Myanmar and Bangladesh added another layer of misery to the already distressed situations of disenfranchised families.

The Islamic Relief global family has been present in Myanmar since 2012 and actively provides humanitarian aid to those most in need in Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh. Most recently, IRUSA distributed emergency aid to flood survivors, in addition to continuing several large-scale development projects like safe latrines for women, medical facilities, and clean water projects.

Khalid Latif, notable imam and the Executive Director and Chaplain for the Islamic Center at New York University, visited Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh with IRUSA staff in late 2018. He said, "If these relief groups were not there — if Islamic Relief was not there — these people would not live."

IRUSA will continue to work to improve livelihood conditions, water, sanitation, and food security for around 25,000 people in Myanmar, at least through 2021. IRUSA is also continuing work to reduce disaster risk and increase socio-economic empowerment in Bangladesh for refugees and vulnerable people. 🇺🇸



Imam Khalid Latif with Myanmar refugees living in Bangladesh.



Children gather in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh.

Humanitarian Growth in Europe

In 1993, the war in Bosnia had reached unprecedented heights. A few changemakers answered a call to help their Bosnian sisters and brothers in need. That answer served as a catalyst for the birth of Islamic Relief USA. Since then, 26 years have passed, but that call to serve in Bosnia still holds a special place in the heart of IRUSA.

It is that special connection to Bosnia that Islamic Relief USA has kept in mind while continuing to aid those in need in Europe. In 2018, we launched projects that provided food to Bosnia's orphans and families suffering from food insecurity.

IRUSA supported dozens of other projects across 10 European countries in 2018, including the construction of two primary health centers in Albania, hosting iftars for orphans in Bosnia, and empowering youth through job skills training and education in Chechnya.

Over the years, our work across Europe has included food package distributions in Albania, Chechnya, Kosovo, Macedonia, and more. IRUSA also supported earthquake survivors in Italy and refugees in Germany.

Several of our projects implement best practices for long-term sustainable development, such as a goat farm in Kosovo that gives breadwinners a means to support their families.

Most recently, hundreds of thousands of refugees have migrated to European countries like Greece and Italy. Since 2018, we've worked with HIAS, a global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees, to advance their rights of and offer them much-needed legal protection. Many are Syrian and Palestinian.

Islamic Relief USA aims to continue expanding in presence across the region in order to keep serving Europe's most vulnerable.



EUROPE

CONTINUING TO DEVELOP COMMUNITIES

2017-2018

129+
THOUSAND
BENEFICIARIES

10
COUNTRIES

62
PROJECTS

Winter aid distribution in Kosovo.

Working with HIAS to Empower Refugees in Greece

Since summer 2018, IRUSA has been proud to work with HIAS in Greece to advance refugee rights and provide much-needed protection to many vulnerable refugees in Lesbos and Athens. The joint effort serves some of the most vulnerable refugees, like unaccompanied minors, survivors of gender-based violence, and people with disabilities.

Islamic Relief USA's alliance with HIAS, a dedicated interfaith partner, demonstrates the shared commitment that both organizations have to social justice and compassion.



IRUSA trip to Greece with HIAS.

Poverty Alleviation in Bosnia

Farming is a significant employment source in Bosnia, especially given that the country's economy is still recovering from a pattern of unemployment and corruption. From early 2018 until early 2019, we provided nearly 60 families in Bosnia with raspberry farms and farming equipment.

This agricultural project has supported these families with employment, income, and food security. The raspberry farms are abundant and prosperous. And given that the raspberries are grown organically, they are even more marketable.

The benefits for projects like this one are long-lasting and provide people in need with avenues to self-sufficiency.



A woman on an IRUSA raspberry farm in Bosnia.



MIDDLE EAST

MOVING FORWARD AMID CHANGE

2017-2018

4.8+
MILLION
BENEFICIARIES

9
COUNTRIES

112
PROJECTS

Half of all Syrian refugees are children.

The Middle East is no stranger to change. Fluxuating political priorities, migration patterns, and more have left the region facing significant challenges. Moreover, conflict has put millions at-risk of becoming lifelong refugees.

The more detailed statistics are hard to grapple with: more than 14 million people in the region are internally displaced, including 7 million refugees. Several countries grapple with ongoing violence and political unrest.

And in Yemen specifically, famine has left nearly 20 million people food insecure and susceptible to disease.

The Syrian refugee crisis has pushed millions of families into neighboring countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, and Turkey. And for those trapped within Syria, internal displacement means unthinkably poor living conditions.

Islamic Relief USA is working around the clock, along with partner organizations, to address the mass displacement emergency while building sustainable, long-term resources for refugees.

IRUSA's dynamic education program in Lebanon, endearingly called "No Child Left Behind," is a fully-funded school building and curriculum. The project opens a life-changing pathway to education for both Lebanese and Syrian children.

A similar initiative is IRUSA's mobile clinic in Jordan, a portable medical center that serves families living in remote or rural areas by bringing medicine and doctors directly to them.

And in Palestine, job training is helping communities take advantage of opportunities to join industries like computer technology. Women-headed households in Palestine are also being supported by a new program launched in March 2019, in partnership with ANERA, that helps women earn money to better their families.

At Islamic Relief USA, we consider the Middle East full of hope. That's because all across the region, families are resiliently working to turn disaster into promising futures. And through your support, we're proud to give them a helping hand so they can keep moving forward.



Syrian refugees outside of IRUSA's mobile clinic in Jordan.



Supporting Refugees from Syria and Palestine

Crisis for Syrian Refugees

As of June 2013, over 90,000 Syrians had been killed from the conflict turned crisis within the country. By 2015, Syria would see 250,000 people perish. With no end in sight, droves of Syrians left their homes with nothing more than what they could carry with their own two hands.

By the millions, refugees sprawled out across Syria and into neighboring countries.

The majority of them—approximately 5.6 million people—are spread across Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. And according to the UNHCR, over 6 million people are still displaced internally.

One of these refugees is Dr. Ahmed, a doctor who has helped hundreds of Syrians back to health in his lifetime. The conflict unfolded a dark chapter in his career. One night, a man was rushed to the hospital after being injured in a bombing. The doctor was horrified to realize the man was his cousin.

“He was losing a lot of blood from his femoral artery, and I needed to operate immediately, but there was no electricity,” Dr. Ahmed said. “I had to use a simple head torch and a cigarette lighter. Alhamdulillah, I managed to reconnect his artery and save his life.”

Dr. Ahmed is one of the few physicians who have remained amidst one of the most devastating humanitarian catastrophes in recent history.

It’s because of the overwhelming needs of millions of refugees like the ones served by Dr. Ahmed that IRUSA continues to aid Syrian people. In 2018 alone, IRUSA assisted almost a quarter million Syrians with emergency relief in the form of food, water, healthcare, and winterization assistance.

Continuing to Serve Palestinian Refugees

Palestinian refugees are another community with a worldwide presence that continue to be served by Islamic Relief USA. Recent estimates report that there are 7.2 million Palestinian refugees globally.

UNRWA reports that nearly one-third of Palestinian refugees live in camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Islamic Relief offices in Jordan and Lebanon often reach Palestinians in need with campaigns such as winter aid, meat distribution, and medical support. And our long-term partnership with ANERA allows us to serve those within Palestine with vital aid and economic development.

Reflecting on eight years since the tragic timeline of the Syrian conflict began and over half a century since the major impetus for the Palestinian refugee crisis serves as a reminder that there is still a long path to recovery and reconciliation ahead. 🙏



Suhad and her children at their home in Palestine.

A Fresh Start

Suhad was only 35 years old when she lost her husband. After his death she was left as the sole caretaker of their five children, ages five to 15. One of her daughters, Munawwar, requires special care because she is deaf and unable to talk.

“My husband had a long sickness and bad asthma...we were all devastated when he died. We were also very poor, because we had no income at all. Sometimes we couldn’t even afford food,” explained Suhad.

“Our house was in terrible condition before,” she says, sitting on a new sofa with a clean and tidy house full of their furniture and belongings. “But now life is really great because we have been able to make our house very beautiful and we have everything we need.”

Thanks to aid from IRUSA and an UNRWA partnership, Suhad’s family was able renovate their home, including electrical fixes. The house is light more often now, so the children can play, relax, and do their homework.

The family also received a huge wardrobe and new clothes for the children. One of Suhad’s sons, Mustafa, got a new backpack, along with books, supplies, and toys from Islamic Relief.

“I was sitting in school and one of my friends asked me, ‘where did you get that new backpack?’ I told them. I felt really happy they had noticed.”

“The house is so great now,” said Suhad. “I am really happy the way things have turned out. I hope I will be able to make my life work out well.” She also now earns a small income with a sewing business, which she runs from the home. 🙏



Kifaa with her seven children living in a small home in Jordan.

Breadwinner

Kifaa and her seven children live in Jordan. It was there that they took refuge after escaping the horrors they faced in Syria. Her husband abandoned the family and provides them with no support. To make ends meet, she wakes her children at 5 a.m. each morning and they search the streets for discarded bread. They gather as much as they can, clean it, and resell it for animal fodder.

The bread is laid out on a blanket in the open space outside her home—a hodgepodge of every size and shape of bread you can imagine. The children dance around it proudly, indicating that their mother has somehow turned this fate into something fun—a mother’s magic. But this isn’t just a fun collection for the children. The bread is their livelihood.

This is more than a story about a displaced family collecting discarded bread and giving it new life; this is a story of Islamic Relief finding families that have been forgotten and giving them new hope.

“We don’t see anyone here helping except for Islamic Relief,” Kifaa told us. She explained that Islamic Relief was not only providing much needed rent and food assistance, but also education support for her children—a need that is echoed across the refugee populations that Islamic Relief serves.

In a place where Syrian refugees have been forgotten and left to fend for themselves, Islamic Relief is a lifeline that families can depend on long after their stories have left the headlines.

A firsthand account of a refugee assistance project by IRUSA staff member Chancey Gannett, who visited Jordan in January 2019. 🙏

Thanks to donors who give generously, Islamic Relief is a lifeline that families can depend on long after their stories have left the headlines.



Islamic Relief works in 19 of the 22 governorates in Yemen.

Who is Helping Yemen?

Hearing about Yemen is almost unbearable, and enough to make anyone feel helpless. The UN reports a striking 80% of the population—an unthinkable 24 million people—require humanitarian protection or assistance.

But the reality is: we're not helpless. We have the power to relieve suffering and create positive change in Yemen.

That's why at Islamic Relief USA, we refuse to forget innocent families in need in Yemen. When donors give gifts, no matter how big or small, we rush to deliver them so people trapped in desperate circumstances like famine and cholera can receive vital food and medical care.

Partners like Catholic Relief Services and the Church of Latter day Saints depend on IRUSA to deliver their aid in the region.

Why? We work in 19 of the 22 Yemeni provinces, and have been

working there for over a decade. Our staff on the ground is from Yemen, which allows a strong link to understanding the struggles of those in need.

Our projects include life saving food, health, water, and winter aid, and benefit hundreds of thousands—but the need is in the millions.

Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an, "...If anyone saves a life, it would be as if he saved all of humanity" (5:32). Islamic Relief USA has sustained lives in Yemen, due to generous donor support. 🙏

Yemen is "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

- United Nations



Feeding Families like Ahmed's

Ahmed lives in Yemen, and he is nearing 40 years of age. His day is consumed with caring and tending for his family of five. This past year, Ahmed lost his income but wasn't deterred. He began toiling as a laborer to try and provide for his family. Although he works very hard, the money doesn't truly fulfill the needs of his family.

Ahmed explained, "These days, living conditions are very bad and difficult. It is hard to meet the basic needs of my family. With the rising prices of food, clothing, and basic necessities, it has become more difficult to provide for my children. Most of the time, I don't have enough money. I borrow from neighbors, and it is difficult for me to pay back my debts. To survive these days, I rely on humanitarian assistance."

Throughout the conflict, Islamic Relief has been distributing food assistance to families like Ahmed's. In a situation where there are countless gaps to be filled, the Islamic Relief global family works to feed hungry individuals first.

"I am grateful that Islamic Relief supported us with the food ration," expressed Ahmed. "Without this support, I would not have been able to feed my children." 🙏

HARD FACTS: YEMEN

50% of children have stunted growth

55% of the population has no regular safe water access

60% of the population is food insecure

80% of the population needs humanitarian assistance

90% is the rate of increase of severe child malnutrition

Statistics from the United Nations

#GivingTuesday — to Yemen —

November 27, 2018, was #GivingTuesday, an annual day of charitable giving. We devoted our 2018 #GivingTuesday LaunchGood campaign to the Yemen humanitarian crisis. Donors like you responded with over \$100,000—allowing us to win a competition for \$10,000 more from our friends at LaunchGood. Thank you for #GivingTuesday to Yemen. 🙏





USA

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S CHANGING NEEDS

2017-2018



Food and Faith

Minnesota is among the top 10 worst states in the US for resident access to groceries near their home, and the US Department of Agriculture recently reported that nearly 10% of all people in Minnesota are food insecure. In northern Minneapolis, the Al-Maa'uun community project has assumed the challenge of serving those who are hungry.

Food is the central ingredient to operations at Al-Maa'uun, a project of Masjid An-Nur. A longstanding IRUSA Day of Dignity partner, the center focuses its programming around responding to local health and food needs.

"We made it our job to bring resources and services to our community and then surround our community with that," said Imam Makram El-Amin, the executive director of Al-Maa'uun. Thinking on what 'impact' means, El-Amin offered, "Al-Maa'uun is us living our [Islamic] faith out loud."

The center operates a full service kitchen servicing more than 500 families a month, as well as a garden. The staff personally delivers bulk orders to over 15 soup kitchens, schools, and camps within northern Minneapolis.

Having a full-fledged kitchen dynamically changed not just what Al-Maa'uun could

serve, but who. For several schools and youth engagement programs, Al-Maa'uun fills the gap for critical meals. For families constantly coping with insufficient financial means, it makes finding a plate of food an easier task.

Day-to-day performance demands are tough, but it all gets done thanks to the young staff who have become part and parcel of the work.

Anisah, the lead cook and one of the youngest staff, said, "Everyday we come in we do breakfast for sites, then we immediately begin cooking for lunch, making hundreds of meals a day. We have people in and out every single day." She supervises 10 other young people.

When the kitchen is in full swing, Anisah's energy to prepare meals seems endless. She does it all while delegating effectively to her peers, whose glowing smiles echo her glowing personality.

Executive staff member Kamillah El-Amin described the kitchen's impact on developing communities in northern Minneapolis: "You're making such an impact on people's lives—there aren't any words that I can say to you. You would need to feel the love, the dignity, the honor, and the respect that people have when they walk away from here," Kamillah said.

For decades, IRUSA has worked to respond to US food insecurity with nationwide pantries and Islamic centers, as well as organizations like Share Our Strength, Rise Against Hunger, and the Alliance to End Hunger.

Ultimately, it is the dedication of donors who position IRUSA to empower organizations just like Al-Maa'uun so they can continue to serve neighbors in need. 🤝



Tomatoes grown in the garden of Masjid An-Nur in Minneapolis, MN.



Kamillah, an executive staff member



Masjid An-Nur

After Hurricane Maria: IRUSA Volunteers Head to Puerto Rico



Disaster response volunteer distributing food aid in Puerto Rico.

In late September 2017, Hurricane Maria made tragic landfall on Dominica as a Category 5 storm, and hit Puerto Rico as a Category 4.

The Puerto Rico government reported nearly 3,000 deaths. Approximately \$100 billion in damage was also reported by CNN, including massive damage to an aging electrical grid that resulted in widespread outages for months.

Sending personnel shortly after the hurricane touched down in September, Islamic Relief USA's Disaster Response Team (DRT) next prioritized long-term recovery for Puerto Rico's hurricane aftermath by sending additional volunteers in the 2018 summer.

They participated in relief efforts in the Bayuna neighborhood of San Juan, in partnership with the Lions Club.

Hani Hamwi, DRT Manager, said the Lions Club's familiarity with the island and people most in need made them a valuable partner. Volunteers distributed food boxes containing meals and vital supplies to San Juan residents, some of whom were disabled, bed-ridden, or lacking transportation.

"The people of Puerto Rico need our assistance...many parts of the island are far from returning to the sense of normalcy that previously existed," said IRUSA's CEO Sharif Aly. "We want to make sure people don't go hungry and that we can provide comfort in whatever way possible...Our

thoughts and prayers are with our fellow sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico."

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responded to the emergency, non-profit organizations like IRUSA have filled in a critical gap when it comes to doing daily recovery work. FEMA is attempting to transition its role from disaster response to long-term recovery.

Disaster Response is just one of many areas that IRUSA works in to address immediate and long-term needs of vulnerable individuals across the US. We fuel hundreds of other community projects in additional sectors like food security and livelihood, health, refugee resettlement, women's empowerment, and more. 🙏



Still There, Years Later: IRUSA's Hurricane Harvey Recovery

Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas and Louisiana in August 2017, claiming homes, businesses, and lives. It was a Category 4 storm.

Years after distributing emergency aid to survivors in the Houston metropolitan area, IRUSA's Disaster Relief Team (DRT) continues to work to rebuild homes that are damaged or destroyed. IRUSA is working with another organization, SBP (originally St. Bernard Project), in conjunction with AmeriCorps for this long-term recovery project.

The American Red Cross, a long-term partner, identified IRUSA as an important link for Houston residents who work toward restoring their lives. To that end, they awarded nearly \$500,000 in a grant to IRUSA to support the rebuilding efforts. The funds will go towards a dormitory for groups of volunteers to stay in during the home rebuilding. IRUSA plans to rebuild between 15 and 20 homes each year, for many years to come. 🙏

This March, I was privileged enough to take a trip to Houston and witness firsthand the impact of the post-Harvey recovery work Islamic Relief USA's Disaster Response Team is doing there. I met with students from New York University who dedicated the entirety of their spring break to rebuilding the homes of two elderly women. Each of their homes was demolished in the storm.

A group of students from Zaytuna College also came to volunteer later that month.

This unique and diverse group of students illuminated my already-present hope for the coming generations. Their time, sweat, and dedication embodied what it means to want to help our neighbors, and how action is just as essential as advocacy. Sometimes, changing the world starts at home. These students certainly made the world a better place for two women who will have their homes back.

A firsthand account by IRUSA staff member Rula Ifteiha, who travelled to Houston in March 2019 for disaster recovery efforts. 🙏

ORPHANS

CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

In Niger, sponsorships pave the way to education and more.

A Spotlight on Orphans

Countless innocent children worldwide are orphans, a status shared by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Many of them have lost their fathers even before being born.

The emotional, developmental, and financial challenges faced by orphans and their caregivers are monumental.

Islamic Relief USA keeps orphans a top priority. In fact, IRUSA donors have sponsored a total of 21,659 orphans as of April 2019. Donors who commit to continue their sponsorships for year can truly have long-lasting impact that adds up to help a child reach her or his potential.

And yet, over 1,500 orphans in 12 countries have lost their IRUSA sponsors and wait each day for new ones. While IRUSA makes sure to provide temporary monetary support in the interim, the need to find new, long-term sponsors is dire.

If we forget the orphan, we have forgotten the world. They are the world's most vulnerable, and the reward for caring for them is enormous. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "Myself and the one who cares for the orphan will be together in Paradise like this," and he held his two fingers close together.

Are you the sponsor an orphan is waiting for? See [irusa.org/orphans](https://www.irusa.org/orphans)



Little Hassan, a Syrian refugee orphan, with IRUSA staff.



An orphan in Afghanistan sponsored by IRUSA.



Meet Dr. Alina

Meet Alina, an orphan from Pakistan who is so much more than just that. When she was in first-grade, a generous donor from the US started sponsoring her. She received a monthly stipend that supported her throughout her education and childhood.

Yet the sponsorship meant far more than just a monthly dollar amount: it symbolized opportunity, care, and hope.

She is now 20 years old, and the same generous IRUSA donor still sponsors her. (Sponsorships can continue after the age of 18 if the orphan is enrolled in a school program). Alina is completing her third year of medical school to become a physical therapist. She speaks about her dream to become a doctor with such confidence, as if it has already happened.

Alina joined IRUSA's Pakistan Tour in October 2018 across nine US cities; her smile exuded pride and gratefulness. Her presence served as a powerful inspiration to all who met her and heard about her journey.

"Alina spoke about how she was on the receiving end of support and how she now wants to be on the other side and give back...It's a real success story," said Daud Mohmand, IRUSA Special Events Manager.



RAMADAN

BRINGING PEACE TO THOSE IN NEED

IRUSA shares Ramadan food in over 30 countries.



Ramadan food distribution in Somalia.



Ramadan food distribution in Lebanon.

Sharing Smiles Around the World

Since 1993, Islamic Relief USA has been working to relieve the suffering of our sisters and brothers in humanity. During the month of Ramadan, this work increases, and the increased generosity of our donors fuels our efforts.

In 2018, IRUSA served hundreds of thousands of people in over 30 countries during Ramadan. Some 2.5 million pounds of nutritious, filling food were distributed to families around the world, and 5,000 food packages were delivered to families in need right here in the US.

Packages differ by country, with many including filling food staples like rice, wheat, lentils, oil, sugar, canned fish and meat, and dates. All food is purchased locally, which helps the local economies.

With approximately 1 in 9 people in the world suffering from hunger, these packages serve as a direct way to combat the global food crisis.

Muslims view Ramadan as a time for spirituality, family, and joy. Yet many of them have to continue fasting after the sun sets because they do not have enough food to break their fasts.

Ramadan food packages are a specific example of how individual donations can result in hunger relief in places across the globe.

Because of the support of generous donors like you, IRUSA is able to bring peace to Muslim families in need, so they too can share in the joy of the blessed Ramadan season without worrying about where their next meal will come from. 🌙

RAMADAN

COUNTRY	BENEFICIARIES(2018)
AFGHANISTAN	4,834
ALBANIA	1,681
BANGLADESH	4,779
BOSNIA	4,000
CHAD	2,940
CHECHNYA	1,576
ETHIOPIA	12,710
INDIA	70,970
INDONESIA	1,981
IRAQ	4,114
ITALY*	479
JORDAN*	7,716
KENYA	8,878
KOSOVO	2,330
LEBANON*	4,619
LESOTHO	421
MACEDONIA	670
MALAWI	3,740
MALI	4,469
MYANMAR	28,530
NEPAL	642
NIGER	5,600
PAKISTAN	10,997
PALESTINE	30,738
PHILLIPINES	1,570
SOMALIA	18,000
SOUTH AFRICA	2,227
SOUTH SUDAN	7,200
SRI LANKA	2,265
SYRIAN REFUGEES*	11,830
TUNISIA	1,619
UNITED STATES	20,188
YEMEN	17,500
ZIMBABWE	1,701
TOTAL	308,515

*Syrian refugees were served in the numbers reported for these countries. The line that reads "Syrian refugees" is the number of Syrian refugees served inside Turkey.



QURBANI

SHARING FOOD AND HOPE FOR EID AL-ADHA

Qurbani meat distribution in Kenya.



Qurbani meat distribution in South Africa.

Sharing the Spirit of Eid through Qurbani

In 2018, the Islamic Relief global family served over 3 million people in 34 countries with your Qurbani/Udhiyah donations. This is the highest amount of Qurbani distributions that Islamic Relief has ever carried out. And IRUSA donors were responsible for 26% of the global total, serving more than 776,000 people for Eid al-Adha in 2018.

The highest number of distributions went to countries with some of the world's most vulnerable people: Bangladesh, Chad, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Turkey (Syrian refugees), the US, and Yemen. IR's global staff worked diligently and efficiently to distribute the halal meat in a timely manner.

Qurbani equates to sacrifice, and during the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah, financially capable Muslims around the world give gifts of meat in an effort to emulate the sacrifice that Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his son Prophet Ismail (AS) were willing to make by virtue of their devotion to Allah (SWT). 🕌



A Blessed Eid For Kadia

Kadia is a 45-year-old year mother of 10 living in Mali. In her own words, this is how a Qurbani meat package made Eid al-Adha a truly special holiday:

"I do small trade by selling bracelets, necklaces, and henna to earn a living and feed my family. Not every day is easy. I have to cope with what I earn. I usually sell first to earn something, then I use this money to buy grains and condiments. I cannot afford to buy meat from what I earn. Eid is a happy day. Every year when the children see me coming with this meat from Islamic Relief, they become so happy it makes me cry." 🕌

QURBANI

COUNTRY	BENEFICIARIES (2018)
AFGHANISTAN	16,611
ALBANIA	3,034
BANGLADESH	51,400
BOSNIA	8,763
CHAD	8,864
CHECHNYA	7,085
ETHIOPIA	18,257
INDIA	59,466
INDONESIA	3,265
IRAQ	4,479
JORDAN*	14,261
KENYA	7,800
KOSOVO	4,090
LEBANON*	13,508
LESOTHO	4,679
MACEDONIA	1,447
MALAWI	20,994
MALI	27,174
MYANMAR	106,553
NEPAL	4,312
NIGER	32,072
PAKISTAN	69,084
PALESTINE	26,391
PHILIPPINES	3,945
SOMALIA	102,037
SOUTH AFRICA	3,955
SOUTH SUDAN	11,307
SRI LANKA	7,387
SUDAN	14,975
SYRIAN REFUGEES*	61,329
TUNISIA	226
UNITED STATES	28,477
YEMEN	50,022
ZIMBABWE	7,678
TOTAL	804,927

*Syrian refugees were served in the numbers reported for these countries. The line that reads "Syrian refugees" is the number of Syrian refugees served inside Turkey.



PRESIDENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ADVOCATING FOR A BETTER WORLD

IRUSA President Anwar Khan addresses the audience at the 25th Anniversary Gala in Los Angeles, CA.

The Muslim Voice Against Poverty

Islamic Relief USA's Public Affairs team helps fulfill the organization's goal of improving livelihoods in communities where resources and opportunities are limited.

How? By engaging lawmakers, joining coalitions with like-minded and mission-driven organizations, and supporting the prevention of current social ills or problems. They advocate for programs that alleviate poverty and hunger, assist refugees, and raise awareness about natural and man-made disasters, among other inequities.

In the process, those who engage with such efforts learn to value being self-sustaining, productive members of society to truly make a difference in the world.

During much of 2018, the Public Affairs department held events to inform staff and the public about projects designed to fulfill the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs). To prepare the next generation of leaders, Public Affairs also hosted events for students to learn about IRUSA's impact and how to become part of the non-governmental organization (NGO) community.

In September, Public Affairs Director Christina Tobias-Nahi and CEO Sharif Aly also participated in the G20 Interfaith Summit in Buenos Aires.



IRUSA REACHES MILLIONS OF READERS VIA NEWS COVERAGE

In addition to its advocacy and government affairs work, the Public Affairs team keeps IRUSA's important humanitarian efforts in the news spotlight through media relations. From coverage at local events to articles about relief efforts at home and abroad, journalists inform readers about the myriad ways IRUSA, its volunteers, and its donors are working for a better world. Over the course of 26 years, IRUSA has garnered millions of news impressions from regional publications like the Denver Post to internationally-read outlets like the New York Times.



IRUSA Public Affairs Director Christina Tobias-Nahi (far left) speaking with other interfaith leaders at the Vatican.

In March 2019, Tobias-Nahi was invited to Vatican City for a conference entitled, "Religions and Sustainable Development Goals: Listening to the Cry of the Earth and the Poor." There, she spoke about gender equality and IRUSA's interfaith work.

Through different forums, the media, and relationships, the Public Affairs team informs existing and potential stakeholders of the positive life-altering work in more than 40 countries.

The team's work showcases IRUSA for the compassionate organization that it is—an organization committed to social justice, humanity, and excellence. 🌍



IRUSA CEO Sharif Aly at the Capitol Hill Ramadan celebration.



To celebrate Islamic Relief USA's 25th Anniversary in 2018, two special galas were held. One was in Anaheim, CA, near the location of IRUSA's founding. The other was in Washington, DC, near IRUSA's current national headquarters.

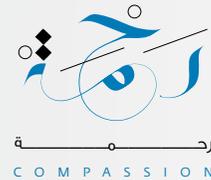
Each black-tie gala commemorated years of life-changing projects and partnerships. Nine community leaders received awards for embodying Islamic Relief's core values: compassion (*rahma*), excellence (*ihsan*), sincerity (*ikhlas*), social justice (*'adl*), and custodianship (*amana*).



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LEADERS AT IRUSA'S GALAS



Rukiye concludes the evening with a prayer.



RUKIYE ABDUL-MUTAKALLIM

is a banking professional, spiritual teacher, and long-time IRUSA Disaster Relief Team volunteer who epitomized faith in action when she forgave a young man who took her son's life. Her closing prayer at both events was unforgettable.



DR. RAMI NASHASHIBI

is executive director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), a clinic supported by IRUSA. He's a 2017 MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellow and named among the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World."

JIHAN ASSAF

was part of the first volunteer efforts in California in IRUSA's earliest days. She's facilitated decades of event organizing, ticket sales, and fundraising, working selflessly behind the scenes.



MONEM SALAM

has showcased long-standing dedication to IRUSA's mission, including organizational development alongside IRUSA President Anwar Khan. A humanitarian and director at Saturna Capital, he uses his expertise of worldwide financial sectors to serve others.

AISHA SABADIA

has been involved with IRUSA since her youth, and uses her passion for giving back to those most in need to serve as an international law and politics attorney and a community humanitarian in southern California.



MAHMOUD ABDUL-RAUF

has a legacy of professional athletic excellence and social justice advocacy and is admired as a hero and leader across communities. He is a former NBA star and current BIG3 league player who is a beacon of light for Muslim youth in the US and abroad who are finding their voice.

DR. MONA HANNA-ATTISHA

is the pediatrician who first researched and revealed the alarming lead levels in the blood of children in Flint, MI. Named one of TIME magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World," she continues to work to mitigate the impact of the water crisis.



NAHLA KAYALI

is the founder and executive director of Access California Services. She was recognized by the White House and Congress for her commitment to community. Her powerful personal experiences fuel her dedication to refugees and immigrants.

AKBAR H. COOK, SR.

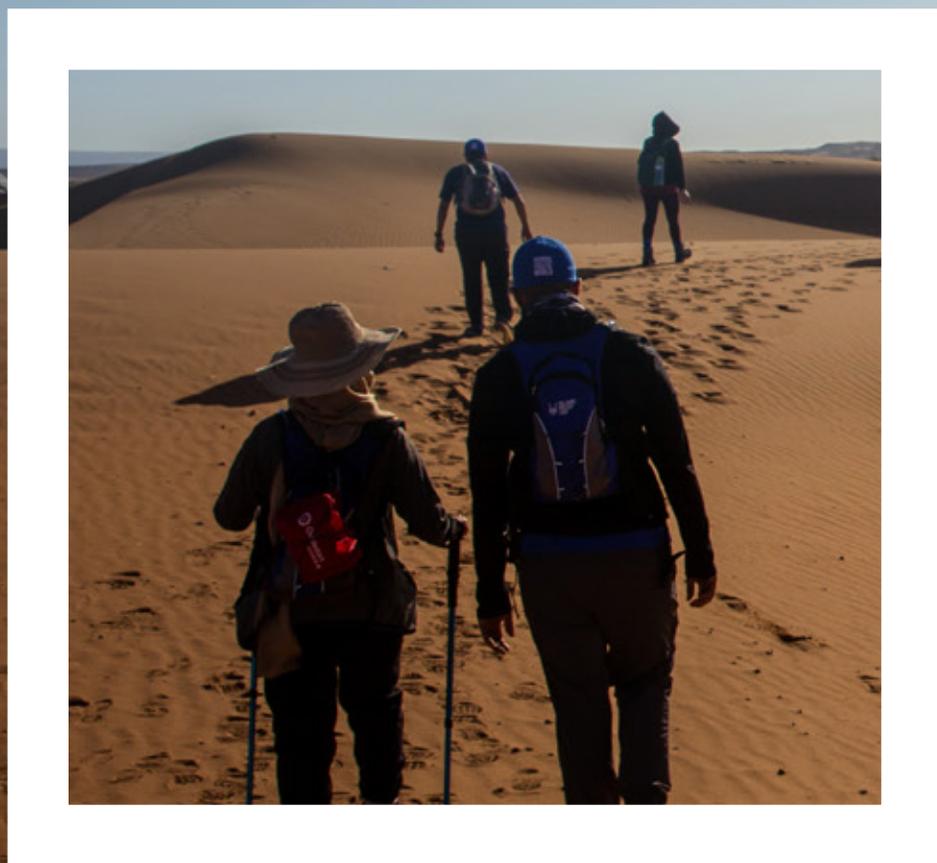
is principal of West Side High in Newark, NJ, where he started "Lights On" to ensure student safety after losing youth to gun violence. He also installed an in-school laundromat, featured on "Ellen." Many recognize him as an inspiring hero.

ADVENTURES THAT CHANGE LIVES

DEDICATED HUMANITARIANS. INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES. POSITIVE IMPACT.

In 2018, IRUSA's Engagement Team launched team challenge opportunities. This new project allows individuals to travel and compete with Islamic Relief staff to conquer a physical challenge, while raising money for water well projects around the world. In the first two challenges, some 40 participants cycled through southern Spain, then through Turkey, while following the route of Ertugrul and the Ottomans toward Istanbul. Challengers on the two cycling trips raised more than \$100,000, which funded multiple new water well projects in East Africa, changing many lives.

In 2019, the Engagement Team hopes to go even bigger, insha'Allah. The first challenge—hiking through the Sahara Desert in Morocco—was completed in March. The next three challenges include cycling in Bosnia in July, cycling in Turkey in September, and hiking in Machu Picchu in November. These trips are incredibly unique. Participants will get to travel the world, accomplish an athletic challenge, explore new cultures, and build bonds with other humanitarians from all around the world.



2019 CHALLENGES



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEXT ADVENTURE
IRUSA.ORG/TEAM



Spain Bike Challenge, January 2018.

CROWDFUNDING

Dedicate your birthday, wedding, or aqiqah to people in need. Or start a campaign based on a dare like shaving your head if you raise your fundraising goal. Get creative and use the power of social media for global good.



START YOUR CAMPAIGN

IRUSA.ORG/CROWDFUND

Chasing Ertuğrul,

Racing for Water



Turkey Bike Challenge, September 2018.

The 2018 Turkey Challenge experience exceeded my expectations on so many levels. As a challenger, I went to places I would have never gone on my own had I booked a regular vacation to Turkey, which I would have never booked on my own.

I was enlightened with history that further increased my pride in being a Muslim. I pushed myself physically in a way that shattered expectations, both mine and others. I met an amazing group of people that I know will be lifelong friends. Something magical happens when people from different backgrounds, countries, ages, and experiences come together to challenge themselves with the common goal of doing good for those less fortunate.

The unexpected delights by both new and familiar Turkish cultural experiences unfolded at every bend, hill, and turn of the bike pedal. Beautiful scenery, the rich history, impressive architecture, local hospitality, delicious food, sounds from the distant valleys, the prevalent smell of jasmine on a seemingly industrial highway, the elderly couple from the fruit stand who refused to take money and gave all 40 of us free fruit, the stray cat that captured our hearts, the major news agency that caught up with us at a gas station on the highway, the mayor and governor who unexpectedly invited us for tea, the smiling faces of people waving at us from their balconies and the school children excited to watch us ride by, the amazing sunset over the lake, the very special man at the mosque who was passionate about sharing his gift of calling the athan in different styles, and so many, many more.

Then there were the conversations: the ones you had with others, the ones you had with yourself, and the ones you had with your creator. Every day there were epiphanies and every evening we would reflect and share.

The entire trip became a metaphor for life and I know I will be drawing upon those experiences frequently going forward for the rest of my life. The whole experience was cleansing and redefining. In fact, the trip was very deeply rewarding and highly spiritual.

A firsthand account of challenge participant Amani Abdel-Dayem who went to Turkey with IRUSA in September 2018.



Assalamu Alaikum,

I want to take a moment to personally thank you, our donors, for your generosity. It's only because of donors like you that Islamic Relief USA has had the honor and privilege of serving millions of beneficiaries through critical and dignified humanitarian relief and development programs for over 25 years.

It's the compassion of donors, selflessness of volunteers, and helpfulness of partners that enables us to make significant, positive changes to the lives of the most vulnerable among us. I'd also like to thank my fellow board members for volunteering their time to help IRUSA achieve its vision of a world free of poverty.

Your commitment transforms lives for the better.

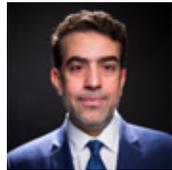
The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) taught that, "He who has not thanked people has not thanked Allah." We strive to show you our sincere gratitude by remaining inspired and guided by our shared faith-based values. We strive to make sure your dollars have the greatest impact by working tirelessly to bring light in times of darkness and hope in times of despair. We use what you give to respond to emergencies and provide immediate relief to those who lose their homes, property, or are forced to migrate. We continue to use what you give to provide access to clean water and essential resources in remote and environmentally vulnerable areas.

You are what makes it possible for Islamic Relief USA to continue working towards alleviating poverty on a global scale. So Jazak Allah Khair and thank you—thank you for assuming responsibility for reaching the millions of people across the world who are in dire need of assistance. With your continued support, we look forward to strengthening Islamic Relief USA so that we may continue to touch and transform the lives of those most in need.

Sincerely,



Khaled Lamada
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Islamic Relief USA



KHALED LAMADA
Chairman



HAMDY RADWAN
Vice Chairman



HAMADI BENGABSIA
Treasurer



NANCY KHALIL
Member



MOHAMED AMR ATTAWIA
Member

THANK YOU

